

A new Species and eight new Races from Peleng and Taliaboe.

Prof. OSCAR NEUMANN sent descriptions of one new species and eight new subspecies from Peleng (Peling) Island, east of Celebes, and Taliaboe, the most western and largest of the Sula Islands.

These birds were collected by Herr J. J. Menden on an expedition arranged—so far as birds are concerned—on behalf of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass., through Prof. Neumann's instructions with the much acknowledged help of the authorities of the Buitenzorg Museum, and was made from July to October 1938.

Only native collectors had once made a bird collection on Peleng for the Dresden Museum in 1895, while the ornithology of Taliaboe Island was hitherto perfectly unknown.

The types of the species and subspecies described will go to the Museum of Comparative Zoology.

Tyto nigrobrunnea, sp. nov.

Description.—Adult female head and whole upper side, wing-coverts, wings, and tail uniform brownish-black, with very small dirty-white spots on interscapulum, rump, and most of the wing-coverts. No indication of bars on primaries and tail. Some faint white vermiculation on the basal half of the inner webs of the primaries and secondaries, and an indication of yellowish vermiculation on the inner webs of the tail-feathers, almost disappearing on the outer webs and on the two middle tail-feathers. Facial disk pinkish-brown, but black around the eyes, facial frill brown, most feathers with black edges. Underside a very fine golden brown, thinly vermiculated with black and covered all over with black spots, which are far larger than the white spots of the upper side. Under wing-coverts like the underside, under tail-coverts and thighs almost spotless. The white vermiculation is clearly visible on the underside of the wings.

A strong silky gloss on facial disk, a remarkable silky gloss on the whole underside, but faint on the upper side of the bird. Iris brown, bill greyish-black, according to label, but very

pale in the distal half in the dry skin, feet grey. Feet darker than in *T. rosenbergi*. Lower tarsus and toes practically bare.

Wing 283, tail 185 mm.

Distribution.—Taliaboe, perhaps all Sula Islands.

Type.—Female, Taliaboe, 20. x. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—This very small *Tyto* is at once distinguished from all other species of the genus by its very dark coloration, almost without any white, except on the underside of the wings.

***Columba vitiensis mendeni*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male and female most similar to *Columba vitiensis halmaheira* Bonaparte (= *albigularis* auct. plur.), with which it has been hitherto united, but much smaller—wing, male 204–219, female 235 mm. (in two cases out of six 225 and 226 mm., female 208–223 mm.), as against male 237–242, female 235 mm., in typical *C. v. halmaheira*. There is far less metallic gloss on the underside, and this gloss is more red and less green. The under tail-coverts are pale grey. Iris yellow or golden-yellow, eyelid red, bill red (but in dry skins only the basal half is red, the distal half yellow, feet red or violet).

Distribution.—Sula Islands.

Type.—Male, Taliaboe Island, 14. x. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Six males and six females were compared by Stresemann with four specimens from Batjan, which may be regarded as typical *C. r. halmaheira*. As long ago as 1898 Hartert (Nov. Zool. v. p. 136) had drawn attention to the small size and other peculiarities of the only one female from Sula Besi, which he had at his disposal. It appears that a careful investigation of the other populations of *C. v. halmaheira* (small islands north of Celebes and different groups of the Papuan subregion) is badly wanted.

***Macropygia amboinensis sedecima*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male similar to *Macropygia amboinensis albicapilla* from Celebes and Teleng, with which it has been

hitherto united, but brighter and more suffused with cinnamon on the upper side and far more pigmented, therefore darker on belly and under tail-coverts.

Female more different even from male of *M. a. albicapilla* than the male. Head cinnamon, the hind neck not different from that of *M. a. albicapilla*, but the upper side, and all wing-coverts black with broad cinnamon edges, the black and the cinnamon in strong contrast. Rump, upper tail-coverts, and tail brighter and more cinnamon than in *M. a. albicapilla*.

Chin and upper throat white slightly washed with cinnamon, the remaining underside cinnamon, darker on throat and breast, where the black bases of the feathers are partly visible, and on the under tail-coverts.

The bird is somewhat smaller than *M. a. albicapilla*; wing, male and female, 142–158 mm. (most 148–153 mm.), as compared to 153–165 mm. in *M. a. albicapilla*.

Distribution.—Taliaboe, but probably all Sula islands.

Type.—Male, Taliaboe, 2. x. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Three ad. males, two semi-ad. males, seven females were compared with eight ad. males, three semi-ad. or juv. males, and three ad. females from Peleng, and several males and females from different regions of Celebes.

***Turnix sylvatica kinneari*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Female larger and much darker on the underside than *Turnix sylvatica maculosa* Temminck from the lesser Sunda Islands and islands south-west of New Guinea, and *T. s. beccarii* Salvad. from Celebes, and, according to Mr. Kinneary, nearest to *T. s. horsburghi* Ingram from Yule Island.

The whole underside deep maroon, but much lighted up in the middle of the belly. The upper side also darker than in *T. s. maculosa* and *T. s. beccarii*. From *T. s. salomonis* Mayr. (American Museum Novitates, no. 1001.29.12.1938), which seems to be somewhat similar as regards colour of underside and size, it seems to differ in first line by the colour of the crown, as in *T. s. petersi* this is similar to that of *T. s. maculosa* and *T. s. beccarii*,

Male much darker on the underside than male of *T. s. maculosa* and of *T. s. beccarii*.

Wing, female 79–85, male 74–78 mm.

Distribution.—Peleng Island.

Type.—Female, Peleng Island, 20. vii. 1938 ; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Four ad. females, one semi-ad. female, six ad. males, were compared with several *T. s. maculosa*, *T. s. beccarii*, and *T. s. saturata* in the Berlin Museum, and with all specimens of available races by Mr. Kinnear in London, and by Dr. Junge in Leiden. Named in honour of Mr. N. B. Kinnear.

A more detailed description of the specimens will be published later on.

***Tyto rosenbergi pelengensis*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Ad. male. Very similar to *Tyto rosenbergi rosenbergi* (Schlegel) from Celebes, but the feathers of the lower throat and upper breast with subterminal broken up black edges, thus giving these feathers a somewhat scaled appearance. Much smaller than *T. r. rosenbergi*.

Wing 296 mm., as compared with 335–360 mm. in *T. r. rosenbergi* (*vide* Meyer and Wiglesworth, 'Birds of Celebes,' i. p. 110).

Distribution.—Peleng (Peling) Island.

Type.—Male, Peleng, 22. viii. 1938 ; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Only this one specimen was collected.

***Caprimulgus macrurus jungei*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male and female very similar to *Caprimulgus macrurus celebensis* Ogilvie Grant from Celebes, but the extension of the white tips of the two outer pairs of tail-feathers still more reduced, 15–17 mm., as compared to 25 mm. in *C. m. celebensis* and about 50 mm. in *C. m. macrurus*.

Wing, male 168–183 mm. Iris brown.

Distribution.—Taliaboe.

Type.—Male, Taliaboe, 13. x. 38 ; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Menden collected ten specimens, of which six are marked male and four female. If these indications are

correct, then there is no difference, either in size or in colour, between the two sexes. Otherwise all these specimens are males, as none exhibit the characters attributed to the female of *C. macrurus* by Hartert in the 'Catalogue of Birds,' vol. xvi.

Named in honour of Dr. Junge, Leiden Museum.

***Rhipidura teijsmanni sulaensis*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male and female similar to *Rhipidura teijsmanni toradja* Stresemann from north-west, central, and south-east Celebes, but the terminal edges of the tail-feathers somewhat more extended and of same colour as the basal two-thirds of the tail-feathers, viz., pure cinnamon, not suffused with olivaceous-grey. Female differs from the male in having the throat more olivaceous and only the upper portion sooty-black.

Wing, male 72, female 66 mm., middle tail-feathers, male 85, female 79 mm.

Distribution.—Taliaboe.

Type.—Male, 11. x. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Only this one pair was collected. The genus *Rhipidura* is new to the Sula Islands.

***Coracina schistacea petersi*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male and female similar to *Coracina personata schistacea* Sharpe from the Sula Islands, with which it had been hitherto united, but considerably smaller and with a smaller and slenderer bill.

Wing, male 157–158, female 149–154 mm., as compared with male 161–165, female 156–163 mm. in *C. s. schistacea*.

Distribution.—Peleng Island.

Type.—Male, Peleng Island, 17. viii. 1938; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Three males, four females, from Peleng were compared with six males, five females, of *C. s. schistaceus* from Taliaboe, Sula Islands.

Named after Mr. James L. Peters, Cambridge, Mass.

***Oriolus chinensis stresemanni*, subsp. nov.**

Description.—Male and female most similar to *Oriolus chinensis frontalis* Wallace from the Sula Islands, with which it

had been hitherto united, but smaller and especially with a shorter and darker, viz., more red bill.

Wing, male 146–155, female 143–145 mm., as compared with male 156–162, female 152–155 mm. in *O. c. frontalis*. Bill, male 31–33 mm., as against female, 35–37 mm. in *O. c. frontalis*.

Distribution.—Peleng Island.

Type.—Peleng, 15. vii. 1938 ; J. J. Menden leg.

Remarks.—Six ad. males, two ad. females, two juv. females, were compared with six ad. males, four ad. females, one juv. female, of *O. c. frontalis* from Taliaboe.

The bill is marked ivory colour in both series, but in the dry skin it is darker red in *O. c. stresemanni* and slightly paler in *O. c. frontalis*.

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